

§ 4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A–582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106–113 substituted “Director” for “Commissioner”.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99–616, § 2(a), struck out “, excluding chapter II thereof” after “June 19, 1970”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99–616, § 2(b), struck out “excluding part C thereof” after “under the treaty”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 99–616, § 2(c), substituted “The terms ‘International Searching Authority’ and ‘International Preliminary Examining Authority’ mean” for “The term ‘International Searching Authority’ means”.

1984—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98–622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106–113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, § 4731] of Pub. L. 106–113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 9 of Pub. L. 99–616 provided that: “Sections 2 through 8 of this Act [amending this section and sections 361, 362, 364, 368, 371, and 376 of this title] shall come into force on the same day as the effective date of entry into force of chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty with respect to the United States, by virtue of the withdrawal of the declaration under article 64(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. It shall apply to all international applications pending before or after its effective date.”

[The Patent Cooperation Treaty became effective for the United States on Jan. 24, 1978. The United States, however, was one of six countries (out of the 40 countries who have ratified or acceded to the Treaty) which had reservations not to be bound by Chapter II. The document removing the reservation as to Chapter II was deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization on Apr. 1, 1987. Accordingly, Chapter II of the Treaty for the United States of America and Pub. L. 99–616 became effective 3 months later on July 1, 1987. See 52 F.R. 20038, 20041, May 28, 1987.]

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98–622 provided that: “Section 404 of this Act [set out as a note under section 41 of this title] and the amendments made by section 403 of this Act [amending this section and sections 104, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 367, 368, 371, 372, 373, and 376 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 8, 1984].”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 11 of Pub. L. 94–131 provided that:

“(a) Section 1 of this Act [enacting this part] shall come into force on the same day as the entry into force of the Patent Cooperation Treaty with respect to the United States. It shall apply to international and national applications filed on and after this effective date, even though entitled to the benefit of an earlier filing date, and to patents issued on such applications.

“(b) Sections 2 to 10 of this Act [amending sections 6, 41, 42, 102, 104, 112, 113, 120, and 282 of this title] shall take effect on the same day as section 1 of this Act [enacting this part] and shall apply to all applications for patent actually filed in the United States on and after this effective date, as well as to international applications where applicable.

“(c) Applications for patent on file in the Patent Office [now the Patent and Trademark Office] on the effective date of this Act, and patents issued on such applications, shall be governed by the provisions of title 35, United States Code, in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this Act.”

[The Patent Cooperation Treaty entered into force with respect to the United States on Jan. 24, 1978, with the exception of Chapter II.]

SHORT TITLE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 99–616 provided: “That this Act [amending this section and sections 361, 362, 364, 368, 371, and 376 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note above] may be cited as the ‘Act to authorize the United States to participate in chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.’”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 102, 154, 374 of this title.

CHAPTER 36—INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Sec.

- 361. Receiving Office.
- 362. International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority.
- 363. International application designating the United States: Effect.
- 364. International stage: Procedure.
- 365. Right of priority; benefit of the filing date of a prior application.
- 366. Withdrawn international application.
- 367. Actions of other authorities: Review.
- 368. Secrecy of certain inventions; filing international applications in foreign countries.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99–616, § 3, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3485, amended item 362 generally.

§ 361. Receiving Office

(a) The Patent and Trademark Office shall act as a Receiving Office for international applications filed by nationals or residents of the United States. In accordance with any agreement made between the United States and another country, the Patent and Trademark Office may also act as a Receiving Office for international applications filed by residents or nationals of such country who are entitled to file international applications.

(b) The Patent and Trademark Office shall perform all acts connected with the discharge of duties required of a Receiving Office, including the collection of international fees and their transmittal to the International Bureau.

(c) International applications filed in the Patent and Trademark Office shall be in the English language.

(d) The international fee, and the transmittal and search fees prescribed under section 376(a) of this part, shall either be paid on filing of an international application or within such later time as may be fixed by the Director.

(Added Pub. L. 94–131, § 1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 686; amended Pub. L. 98–622, title IV, §§ 401(a), 403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3391, 3392; Pub. L. 99–616, § 2(d), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3485; Pub. L. 106–113, div. B, § 1000(a)(9) [title IV, § 4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A–582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106–113 substituted “Director” for “Commissioner”.

1986—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99–616 amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) read as follows: “The basic fee portion of the international fee,

and the transmittal and search fees prescribed under section 376(a) of this part, shall be paid on filing of an international application or within one month after the date of such filing. Payment of designation fees may be made on filing and shall be made not later than one year from the priority date of the international application."

1984—Subsecs. (a) to (c). Pub. L. 98-622, §403(a), substituted "Patent and Trademark Office" for "Patent Office".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-622, §401(a), inserted "or within one month after the date of such filing" after "application".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4731] of Pub. L. 106-113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-616 effective July 1, 1987, and applicable to all international applications pending before or after that date, see section 9 of Pub. L. 99-616, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 401(a) of Pub. L. 98-622 effective six months after Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(b) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 3 of this title.

Amendment by section 403(a) of Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Jan. 24, 1978, and applicable to international and national applications filed on and after that date, see section 11 of Pub. L. 94-131, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 376 of this title.

§ 362. International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority

(a) The Patent and Trademark Office may act as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority with respect to international applications in accordance with the terms and conditions of an agreement which may be concluded with the International Bureau, and may discharge all duties required of such Authorities, including the collection of handling fees and their transmittal to the International Bureau.

(b) The handling fee, preliminary examination fee, and any additional fees due for international preliminary examination shall be paid within such time as may be fixed by the Director.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 686; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 99-616, §4, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3485; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted "Director" for "Commissioner".

1986—Pub. L. 99-616 inserted "and International Preliminary Examining Authority" in section catchline

and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "The Patent and Trademark Office may act as an International Searching Authority with respect to international applications in accordance with the terms and conditions of an agreement which may be concluded with the International Bureau."

1984—Pub. L. 98-622 substituted "Patent and Trademark Office" for "Patent Office".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4731] of Pub. L. 106-113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-616 effective July 1, 1987, and applicable to all international applications pending before or after that date, see section 9 of Pub. L. 99-616, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 376 of this title.

§ 363. International application designating the United States: Effect

An international application designating the United States shall have the effect, from its international filing date under article 11 of the treaty, of a national application for patent regularly filed in the Patent and Trademark Office except as otherwise provided in section 102(e) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 686; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-622 substituted "Patent and Trademark Office" for "Patent Office".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 119, 120 of this title.

§ 364. International stage: Procedure

(a) International applications shall be processed by the Patent and Trademark Office when acting as a Receiving Office, International Searching Authority, or International Preliminary Examining Authority, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the treaty, the Regulations, and this title.

(b) An applicant's failure to act within prescribed time limits in connection with requirements pertaining to a pending international application may be excused upon a showing satisfactory to the Director of unavoidable delay, to the extent not precluded by the treaty and the Regulations, and provided the conditions imposed by the treaty and the Regulations regarding the excuse of such failure to act are complied with.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 686; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 99-616, §5, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3485; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “Director” for “Commissioner”.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-616 substituted a comma for “or” before “International Searching Authority” and “International Preliminary Examining Authority” for “both”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4731] of Pub. L. 106-113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-616 effective July 1, 1987, and applicable to all international applications pending before or after that date, see section 9 of Pub. L. 99-616, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

§ 365. Right of priority; benefit of the filing date of a prior application

(a) In accordance with the conditions and requirements of subsections (a) through (d) of section 119 of this title, a national application shall be entitled to the right of priority based on a prior filed international application which designated at least one country other than the United States.

(b) In accordance with the conditions and requirement of section 119(a) of this title and the treaty and the Regulations, an international application designating the United States shall be entitled to the right of priority based on a prior foreign application, or a prior international application designating at least one country other than the United States.

(c) In accordance with the conditions and requirements of section 120 of this title, an international application designating the United States shall be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior national application or a prior international application designating the United States, and a national application shall be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior international application designating the United States. If any claim for the benefit of an earlier filing date is based on a prior international application which designated but did not originate in the United States, the Director may require the filing in the Patent and Trademark Office of a certified copy of such application together with a translation thereof into the English language, if it was filed in another language.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 686; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 103-465, title V,

§532(c)(4), Dec. 8, 1994, 108 Stat. 4987; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “Director” for “Commissioner”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-465, §532(c)(4)(A), substituted “subsections (a) through (d) of section 119” for “section 119”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-465, §532(c)(4)(B), substituted “section 119(a)” for “the first paragraph of section 119”.

1984—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4731] of Pub. L. 106-113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-465 effective 6 months after Dec. 8, 1994, and applicable to all patent applications filed in the United States on or after that effective date, with provisions relating to earliest filed patent application, see section 534(b)(1), (3) of Pub. L. 103-465, set out as a note under section 154 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 104, 111, 154, 273, 366 of this title.

§ 366. Withdrawn international application

Subject to section 367 of this part, if an international application designating the United States is withdrawn or considered withdrawn, either generally or as to the United States, under the conditions of the treaty and the Regulations, before the applicant has complied with the applicable requirements prescribed by section 371(c) of this part, the designation of the United States shall have no effect after the date of withdrawal, and shall be considered as not having been made, unless a claim for the benefit of a prior filing date under section 365(c) of this part was made in a national application, or an international application designating the United States, filed before the date of such withdrawal. However, such withdrawn international application may serve as the basis for a claim of priority under section 365(a) and (b) of this part, if it designated a country other than the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 687; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §401(b), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3391.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-622 inserted “after the date of withdrawal,” after “effect” and “, unless a claim for the benefit of a prior filing date under section 365(c) of this part was made in a national application, or an international application designating the United States, filed before the date of such withdrawal” after “having been made” in first sentence, and inserted “withdrawn” after “such” in second sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective six months after Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(b) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 3 of this title.

§ 367. Actions of other authorities: Review

(a) Where a Receiving Office other than the Patent and Trademark Office has refused to accord an international filing date to an international application designating the United States or where it has held such application to be withdrawn either generally or as to the United States, the applicant may request review of the matter by the Director, on compliance with the requirements of and within the time limits specified by the treaty and the Regulations. Such review may result in a determination that such application be considered as pending in the national stage.

(b) The review under subsection (a) of this section, subject to the same requirements and conditions, may also be requested in those instances where an international application designating the United States is considered withdrawn due to a finding by the International Bureau under article 12(3) of the treaty.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 687; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4732(a)(10)(A)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-582.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “Director” for “Commissioner”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-113 effective 4 months after Nov. 29, 1999, see section 1000(a)(9) [title IV, §4731] of Pub. L. 106-113, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 366 of this title.

§ 368. Secrecy of certain inventions; filing international applications in foreign countries

(a) International applications filed in the Patent and Trademark Office shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 17 of this title.

(b) In accordance with article 27(8) of the treaty, the filing of an international application in a country other than the United States on the invention made in this country shall be considered to constitute the filing of an application in a foreign country within the meaning of chapter 17 of this title, whether or not the United States is designated in that international application.

(c) If a license to file in a foreign country is refused or if an international application is ordered to be kept secret and a permit refused, the Patent and Trademark Office when acting as a Receiving Office, International Searching Authority, or International Preliminary Examin-

ing Authority, may not disclose the contents of such application to anyone not authorized to receive such disclosure.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, §1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 687; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, §403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 99-616, §6, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3486.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-616 substituted a comma for “or” after “Receiving Office” and “International Preliminary Examining Authority” for “both”.

1984—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 98-622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-616 effective July 1, 1987, and applicable to all international applications pending before or after that date, see section 9 of Pub. L. 99-616, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

CHAPTER 37—NATIONAL STAGE

Sec.

- 371. National stage: Commencement.
- 372. National stage: Requirements and procedure.
- 373. Improper applicant.
- 374. Publication of international application: Effect.¹
- 375. Patent issued on international application: Effect.
- 376. Fees.

§ 371. National stage: Commencement

(a) Receipt from the International Bureau of copies of international applications with any amendments to the claims, international search reports, and international preliminary examination reports including any annexes thereto may be required in the case of international applications designating or electing the United States.

(b) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, the national stage shall commence with the expiration of the applicable time limit under article 22(1) or (2), or under article 39(1)(a) of the treaty¹

(c) The applicant shall file in the Patent and Trademark Office—

(1) the national fee provided in section 41(a) of this title;

(2) a copy of the international application, unless not required under subsection (a) of this section or already communicated by the International Bureau, and a translation into the English language of the international application, if it was filed in another language;

(3) amendments, if any, to the claims in the international application, made under article 19 of the treaty, unless such amendments have been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office by the International Bureau, and a translation into the English language if such amendments were made in another language;

(4) an oath or declaration of the inventor (or other person authorized under chapter 11 of

¹ Section catchline amended by Pub. L. 106-113 without corresponding amendment of chapter analysis.

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.